

*"In the end we  
will conserve  
only what we  
love;  
We will love  
only what we  
understand;  
We will  
understand only  
what we have  
been taught."*

*-- Baba Dioum,  
Senegalese ecologist*



# Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

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# About the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Washington is home to a remarkable variety of fish and wildlife species. But changes to the landscape and native habitat as a result of human activity have put many of these species at risk.

In 2000, Congress established a new Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program to help state and tribal wildlife agencies address the unmet needs of wildlife and associated habitats including conservation, education and wildlife-associated recreation. To be eligible for federal grants, each state must develop a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy to be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by October 2005.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is currently developing the state's wildlife conservation strategy in partnership with other government agencies, nongovernment organizations and the public. Washington's statewide strategy will be a landscape-based document that addresses a full array of the state's fish and wildlife, with a focus on species and habitats in greatest need of conservation.

Guiding principles for Washington's conservation strategy include conserving species and habitats with greatest conservation need, recognizing the need to keep common species common, and building and strengthening conservation partnerships with other conservation agencies, tribes, local governments and nongovernment organizations.

In developing Washington's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, the

Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will incorporate information from other species plans, inventories and habitat assessments, including:

- Ecoregional Conservation Assessments
- Washington Natural Heritage Program
- Northwest Power Conservation Council subbasin plans
- Partners in Flight
- Intermountain West Joint Venture
- Puget Sound Action Plan
- Shared Salmon Strategy
- Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
- WDFW 2003-2009 Game Management Plan
- WDFW threatened and endangered species recovery plans
- Freshwater and marine fish management plans

Some of these plans may be viewed on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's website at [www.wdfw.wa.gov](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov) or may be obtained in hard copy by contacting the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at (360) 902-2515.



## Eight Essential Elements

1. Include information on the distribution and abundance of wildlife species, including low populations and declining species, which are indicative of the diversity and health of wildlife of the state.
2. Identify the extent and condition of wildlife habitats and community types essential to the conservation of priority species.
3. Identify problems that may adversely affect priority species or their habitats. Identify factors and research that may help to conserve priority species and habitats.
4. Determine actions needed to conserve priority species and their habitats. Establish priorities for implementing such conservation actions.
5. Provide for periodic monitoring of species and habitats, as well as the effectiveness of conservation actions. Adapt conservation actions as needed to respond to new information or changing conditions.
6. Coordinate the development, implementation, review, and revision of the Strategy, to the extent feasible, with federal, state, and local agencies and Indian tribes which manage significant areas of land or water within the state.
7. Incorporate public involvement in the development, revision and implementation of the Strategy.
8. Provide for the review of the Strategy and, if appropriate, revision, at intervals of not more than 10 years.